the new terms of settlement within the prescribed parameters including the issue of period of settlement.

Welfare of agricultural labourers

†818. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minsiter of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had sent a proposal to the State Governments for the creation of a fund of Rs. one thousand crore for the welfare of agricultural labourers of the country by realising the same from the agricultural land owners;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposal;

.(c) whether the reaction of the State Governments on this proposal has been obtained; and

(d) if so, the reaction of each of the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) A proposal to enact a comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers is under consideration of the Government which *inter-alia* includes creation of a Welfare Fund by contribution from landowners and a token contribution from workers for providing certain welfare/social security measures to these workers. There were certain reservations expressed by a few State Governments on some of the components of the draft legislation including identifying the source of the fund. As it is the endeavour of the Government to reach a consensus on the matter, a Conference of the State Labour Ministers was again held on 18.1.2000 in New Delhi when views of the State Governments were obtained. The proposal is being re-examined on the basis of the views/comments of the State Governments.

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.